



May 2008 Newsletter

In this issue:

- 2008 Iowa General Assembly Increases Funding to Before and After School Programs!
- Guest Column from the Statewide Afterschool Networks Meeting Team
- Introduction of new IAA Board member Felicia VanDusseldorp
- Upcoming Professional Development and Funding Opportunities

Funding for Before and After School Programs Increased to \$1.1 Million

Thanks to a grant from United Way of Central Iowa and the hard work and dedication of afterschool advocates like you, the IAA achieved \$1.1 million for afterschool in the Department of Education's FY2009 budget! \$100,000 of the funding will help with ongoing coordination, support, and technical assistance to before and after school programs. A total of \$1 million will be available as competitive grants in amounts of \$30,000 to \$50,000 through an application process led by the Department of Education. This is a \$100,000 increase from last year's grant funding, and a significant achievement in a tight budget year with many other competing priorities. The IAA will send more information when the Request for Proposals is released. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Erin Drinnin at 515-243-2000, or edrinnin@sppg.com. Congratulations and thanks to all of you who contacted your legislators and let them know how important before and after school programming is in your community!

Monthly Guest Column from the Statewide Afterschool Networks Meeting Team

In late January of 2008, Iowa, along with the 37 other Statewide Afterschool Networks funded by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, were invited to send teams of seven to the Statewide Afterschool Networks Meeting in Tucson, Arizona. Attendees learned the latest about afterschool policy and practice from guest speakers from around the nation. In the following months, each of the seven team members will take an opportunity to highlight parts of the meeting that they felt most helpful to their own work here in Iowa.

David Welter

Principal, Holmes Junior High School, Cedar Falls, Iowa

The Iowa Afterschool Alliance (IAA) Newsletter is a monthly venue of information and updates on afterschool programs and policies. For more information, please contact Brooke Findley at bfindley@sppg.com or 515-243-2000.

The following is from an article written by Holmes Junior High newspaper staff.

Holmes Junior High Principal David Welter participated in the National Network Meeting in Tuscon, Arizona representing the school's ECHOES afterschool program (Every Child Has the Opportunity to Excel and Succeed). The group's goal was to network with other states and their programs to learn how we can continue to make after school programming a continued priority for students and schools in Iowa, while also having the opportunity to share some of our expertise with other states. "The conference was one of the best I have ever attended featuring keynote speakers and panelists such as Rudi Crew, Superintendent of Miami-Dade County Public Schools, Priscilla Little of the Harvard Research Project, Doug Christensen of the Nebraska DOE and Mayor Chris Coleman of St. Paul, Minnesota. Those presenters are not only credible, as they work with programming on a daily basis, but they are also motivational!" said Welter.

"It was quite an experience hearing where other states are at with regard to afterschool. For example, Connecticut has just passed legislation that will require schools to allow only in-school suspension for all violations of policy. They will no longer suspend students out of school for violence or other serious issues as one third of Connecticut's High School population was being out of school suspended on a daily basis for violence, substance abuse and gang issues. This creates a serious need for the Juvenile Justice system to collaborate with schools in order to make the schools safe and productive."

Welter shared that [Holmes Junior High] currently utilizes the Four Oaks program to provide an alternative suspension/intervention program to address serious issues related to violence, harassment and substance abuse. [The school] also works closely with Juvenile Court services to provide after school services for students who may be suspended or are currently "in the system" in order to provide academic support as well as alternative recreational activities during the crucial after school time when students often are unsupervised.

Research presented by the Harvard Family Research Project clearly shows that after a decade of research and evaluation, children and youth who participate in

afterschool programs can reap a host of positive benefits in a number of interrelated outcome areas; academic, social/emotional, prevention and health and wellness. Academic outcomes associated with participation in after school programs include better attitudes toward school, higher educational aspirations, higher attendance rates, less tardiness, less disciplinary action, lower dropout rates, better performance in school and engagement in learning. Social/emotional outcomes include decreased behavioral problems, improved social and communication skills, increased self-confidence and development of initiative. Health and wellness outcomes associated with participation in after school programming include better food choices, increased physical activity, improved blood pressure and reduction in BMI as well as improved body image.

An interesting statistic that the Harvard group shared was what they refer to as an "effect size" statistic. An effect size statistic is a statistic that measures the magnitude of a program's impact on a particular outcome. Effect sizes can be benchmarked against those reported in other studies. For example, an effect size statistic many are aware of is aspirin's effect on heart disease. Aspirin is often thought of as having a very positive impact on reducing the chance of a heart attack. Harvard's "effect size" for aspirin's impact on reducing heart attacks as well as some other relevant "effect sizes" is listed below:

- Aspirin on heart disease; $d = .03$
- Class size reductions on math achievement; $d = .23$
- School-based substance abuse prevention programs on student use; $d = .09$
- Middle School Students Standardized Test Scores
- Math gains - After school students vs. low supervision; $d = .57$
- Academic gains - After school students vs. low supervision; $d = .33$
- Behavioral outcomes - Reductions in misconduct; $d = .64$
- Reductions in substance abuse; $d = .67$

Given the Harvard Project's findings, it is statistically clear that quality afterschool programming has a very positive impact in a number of areas for those students involved.

Yet another area of debate includes both state and national concerns over American students' performance in the "STEM" areas. As our economy becomes more globally oriented, we need to be able to compete in the STEM marketplace. Afterschool is a venue to offer such innovative programming. As an example, Welter notes that the Holmes after school program has a Math Counts Club that sent 10 students to regional competition at Hawkeye Community College. They also sponsor a First Lego League Team which captured first place in the Innovative Solution Power Puzzle category and second place in the Robot Performance category during competitions held at Iowa State University which was sponsored by ISU's College of Engineering. The Holmes Science Club is working on a number of Projects that will be entered in the Science Olympiad which will be held at Iowa State University later in March. Welter notes that the successful involvement of our students in such engaging activities shows we are doing a good job of "growing our own" scientists, mathematicians and engineers in a quality after school program environment.

Welter acknowledges that a quality afterschool program is all about having a caring staff that brings relevant and engaging activities to the table. "The Holmes program is as much about relationships as it is about activities. We are blessed to have such a staff here at Holmes. From afterschool programming coordinator Dan Bower, to the numerous Holmes teachers, volunteer staff, business and community partners, we have emerged from our individual silos in an effort to work collaboratively to allow our students an opportunity to feel they can find a niche."

Quality afterschool program environments foster inquiry, critical thinking and engagement in learning, and these features can support a range of positive academic and developmental outcomes. As such, after school programs are uniquely poised to support in-school learning and development without replicating the school day. To find out more about the Holmes ECHOES program, visit the link below and click on ECHOES.

<http://www.cedar-falls.k12.ia.us/Buildings/holmes/holmes.html>

Related resource: [After School Programs in the 21st Century: Their Potential and What It Takes to Achieve It](#), Harvard Family Research Project

IAA Welcomes Felicia VanDusseldorp as Newest Board Member

As announced last month, the IAA recently welcomed three new members to its Board of Directors: Amy Friedrich of Principal Financial Group, Jean Kuehl of Cedar Rapids Community Corrections, and Felicia VanDusseldorp of Vermeer Manufacturing. We asked them to share some information about themselves and why they feel afterschool is so important, both personally and professionally. This month we will feature Ms. VanDusseldorp.

Felicia VanDusseldorp, Recruiting Specialist, Vermeer Manufacturing

Ms. VanDusseldorp appreciates the time her six year-old daughter spends in afterschool programs:

"I am a parent of a six year old and appreciate any extra programs Alizabeth can attend to help her grow, and knowing that when she is not with me she is doing something of quality [is especially important]."

Since joining Vermeer in January 2007, Ms. VanDusseldorp has relied upon the afterschool providers in her community to balance work and life. Her appreciation of afterschool programming is reflected in her new position on the Iowa Afterschool Alliance Board. While Ms. VanDusseldorp admits that this is the company's first venture with afterschool programs, she is excited to see it mature and grow.

The Iowa Afterschool Alliance would like to welcome Ms. VanDusseldorp and thank her for her continued support for afterschool programs in the state.

For more information on the IAA Board and its role and responsibilities, please contact Michelle Rich at 515-243-2000, or mrich@sppg.com.

Upcoming Professional Development and Funding Opportunities

National Institute on Out-of-School Time 2008 Summer Seminars

Network with other afterschool professionals at the 2008 NIOST Summer Seminars at the John Hancock Conference Center in Boston, MA. Uncover innovative ways to strengthen your advising and leadership skills, understand how to maintain and build your afterschool programs, forge strategic partnerships, and meet funder demands by learning and implementing the comprehensive APAS Program Evaluation System.

July 14-15

A. Advancing School, Afterschool and Community Partnerships

Are strategic partnerships necessary for your organization? Whether your need arises from programming, sustainability or new initiatives such as expanded learning time, this seminar will help you reach out and forge relationships.

B. Quality Advisor Training

This training will prepare you to provide technical assistance to afterschool programs working on quality improvement. You will learn the skills of observation, analysis, and problem-solving to assess and counsel programs using a variety of tools including the ASQ (Assessing School Age Quality) and APT (Assessment of Afterschool Program Practices Tool).

July 16-17

C. System Building

Work with leaders from around the country to identify trends in the afterschool field and to explore effective strategies for building a comprehensive system for out-of-school time.

D. Afterschool Program Assessment System (APAS)

These days, many funders and state agencies require a full program evaluation to assess current program quality, to identify areas of improvement, and to track long term progress. Take this workshop and learn to implement the APAS system – a well-respected, scientifically tested tool that will do more than improve your program; it will satisfy your funder needs too!

Go to www.NIOST.org for more information and registration.

Share Our Strength's Great American Bake Sale

To ensure that low-income children receive nutritious food during critical out-of-school times; in particular, for efforts to increase participation among low-income children in summer and afterschool meal programs. Awards range from \$1,000 to \$10,000. Nonprofits, schools with a valid National Center for Education Statistics code or local governments that work to ensure children have access to afterschool and summer meal programs are eligible to apply. For more information visit:

http://gabs.strength.org/site/PageServer?pagename=GABS_grants

Deadline: May 30

Learning in the Arts for Children and Youth

U.S. National Endowment for the Arts is awarding grants aimed at helping children and youth develop arts knowledge, understanding and skills. Awards range from \$5,000 to \$100,000. Public and private nonprofits are eligible to apply. For more information visit:

www.arts.gov/grants/apply/GAP09/LITA.html

Deadline: June 9

Challenge America: Reaching Every Community Fast-Track Review Grants

U.S. National Endowment for the Arts is awarding grants to small and mid-sized organizations to extend the reach of the arts to underserved populations, including youth, whose opportunities to experience the arts are limited by geography, ethnicity, economics or disability. Awards are \$10,000 each and both public and private nonprofits are eligible to apply. For more information visit:

www.arts.gov/grants/apply/GAP09/Challenge.html

Deadline: June 2

Save Our History

The History Channel is awarding gifts of up to \$10,000 for community preservation projects that engage students in learning about, documenting and preserving the history of their communities. Museums, historic sites, historical societies, preservation organizations, libraries and archives that partner with a local school or youth group are eligible to apply. For more information visit

www.history.com/minisite.do?content_type=Minisite_Generic&content_type_id=51650&display_order=3&mini_id=51103

Deadline: June 6